

### **REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE**

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The combination of features in the independent claims were not found in the prior art as follows: The prior art includes connecting memory modules in a ring or loop and memory modules having processing modules, using memory modules to sort data, use of sequence numbers to order data of an array using pointers for the array and counting the number of identical sequence numbers.. However in combination with the features of claim 1 the in features including "in each of the processing modules mutually acquiring sets of global item value numbers from the other processing modules, counting a number of sets of global item value numbers ordered higher than the set of global item value numbers in the processing module" was not found in the prior art. The other independent claims 3, 8, and 10 include a similar feature which in combination of the other features of the respective independent claims, was not found in the prior art (as detailed below).

Claim 3 includes "means for mutually acquiring sets of global item value numbers from the other processing modules, counting a number of sets of global item value numbers ordered higher than the set of global item value numbers in the processing module".

Claims 8 includes " means for counting, with respect to the respective values in the list of values in the processing module, a number of values ordered higher than the respective values in the list of values received by the receiving means".

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Claim 10 includes “ in each of the processing modules, comprising counting, with respect to the respective values in the list of values in the processing module, a number of values ordered higher than the respective values in a list of values received from a processing module logically connected to the preceding stage”.

The dependent claims are allowable for the same reasons as the respective independent claim which each depends.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance.”

**Comment on substitute specification**

The Examiner accepts the substitute specification filed 7/23/2010.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Eric Coleman whose telephone number is (571) 272-4163. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eddie Chan can be reached on (571) 272-4162. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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EC

/Eric Coleman/  
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2183